

PRESS RELEASE

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GEORGIA DOT BEGINS ROADWAY CRACK SEALING ON HIGHWAY 515 IN FANNIN AND GILMER COUNTIES

BLUE RIDGE, Ga. – A Georgia DOT maintenance crew will begin today its work on sealing the cracks on the surface of State Route 515/Appalachian Development Highway in Fannin and Gilmer counties. Work will proceed daily Tuesday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., weather permitting.

Pavement expands and contracts with seasonal temperature changes. This movement can and does cause the surface of the roadway to crack, allowing water to seep into the road bed. Water is the most destructive element to pavement and it has to be prevented from entering the roadway base and sub-base. Sealing the cracks with a flexible rubberized asphalt that bonds to the crack walls and moves with the pavement prevents water intrusion. As part of Georgia DOT pavement management/maintenance system, crack sealing helps to reduce pavement deterioration by restricting water penetration into underlying base and sub-base layers. This restriction helps to maintain pavement structural capacity and limits future degradation. Sealing cracks and joints in pavements thus extends the service life of the roadway surface and pavement.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive campaign calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>. You also may follow us on (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest) and *Twitter* (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>).

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